



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve  
P.O. Box 29  
Arco, Idaho 83213

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## 2011 SCHOOL POLICY

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Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is an exceptional area to study volcanic geology and the plants and animals native to Idaho's high desert. Educators are encouraged to integrate this outdoor classroom into their curricula. Because most groups arrive at nearly the same time, we will take reservations on a first come, first served basis for ~150 students per day to eliminate conflicts between groups competing to utilize the same park sites. Call 208-527-1335 to receive an educational fee waiver and reserve a field trip date: Winter Snow School, *Tue--Fri* Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> to Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>; Spring *Mon--Fri* April 18<sup>th</sup> (snow permitting) to May 27<sup>th</sup>; and Fall *Mon--Fri* Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 28<sup>nd</sup>. *We will not be issuing educational fee waivers to any school groups who have not made a reservation and agreed to attend an orientation.*

### Limitation on group size:

*Groups are limited to less than 50 students at any one park site at one time* for the safety of your students and protection of park resources. Larger groups are difficult to instruct in the confined viewing areas and along narrow trails common to our outdoor sites and students have difficulty staying on the trails and within view of responsible adults. Stepping off trail can result in permanent impacts to fragile lava features.

Groups with over 50 people also exceed the fire safety capacity of our visitor center and theater room. We encourage groups of 20 or less to visit the museum but larger groups are too loud and generally conflict with other visitors in the confined space of the visitor center.

### Conservation:

To model energy conservation we suggest limiting support vehicles to one per bus. Please bring trash bags to sort plastic, glass, aluminum and steel cans when you have lunch. Have students place the material to be recycled in the recycle bins at the campground on the way out of the park. Only put garbage in the waste bins at parking lots.

### Cave Access:

To prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that has killed over a million bats since 2005, screening is required before any individual may enter a cave on National Park Service lands. We are asking all teachers to screen their students prior to their visit. Please add the following questions to field trip permission slips or verbally screen students:

*-Have you visited a cave or mine since 2005?*

*(If the answer is No – permit issued)*

*-Do you agree to not bring any items that were in previously visited caves or mines? (If the answer is Yes – permit issued)*

*Contact park staff at 208-527-1335 to let us know that your screening has been completed.*

[More information on White Nose Syndrome...](#)

#### Requirement of adequate supervision:

Schools should provide at least *one adult (teacher or parent) to supervise for each 10 students that they bring*. Educational, resource, and safety concerns are all served by providing good supervision. If students have brought money to spend in the bookstore, chaperones must be in attendance. Students without money should not be handling the merchandise. The visitor center museum has a fire safety capacity of 55. If you choose to bring students into the museum they must be quiet and respectful of other visitors, otherwise they will be asked to leave.

#### Curriculum Materials:

There are a variety of field trip activity guides available on our web site:

([www.nps.gov/crmo/forteachers/curriculummaterials.htm](http://www.nps.gov/crmo/forteachers/curriculummaterials.htm)). We strongly encourage educators to utilize these resources to prepare, guide, and reflect upon a visit to this special place.

#### Help us help you:

One of our highest priorities is to provide a quality educational experience for visiting school groups. Teachers are encouraged to contact us and discuss how we can most effectively accomplish this goal. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Doug Owen, Education Specialist (208-527-1331).    Doug\_Owen@NPS.GOV